

**HANOVER LOCAL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE
MINUTES
(DRAFT)**

DATE: June 5, 2007

PRESENT: **Committee Members:** Elizabeth Harrel, Paula Smith, Dr. Al Watts,
Charlene Leahy, and Sharon Taylor
Human Rights Advocate: Beverly Garnes, DMHMRSAS
Affiliate Members: Nichelle Cooper, Ascending Dove Care Facility, Inc.
Sheila Lewis, Creative Family Solutions, Inc.
Recco Greenhow, Dimension Youth Services Inc.
John Barrett, Fidura & Associates, Inc.
Tina Dunn and Dorothy Shepherd, Hanover Adult Center
Ron Lucas, Hanover Community Services
Larry Wilson, Richmond Residential Services
Barbara Riggins, Riggins Residential
Ed Bowman, Virginia Baptist Children's Home
Leavelle Cox, Veldot Residential
Absent: Mark Sims, S.H.I.E.L.D. Residential Services, Inc.

WELCOME: Elizabeth Harrel called the meeting to order and welcomed all attending.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS: 2007 – 2008

Nominations for Chairperson and Vice Chairperson were called for. Sharon Taylor was nominated for Chairperson and Paula Smith for Vice Chairperson. Vote carried as nominated.

AGENDA ITEMS:

I. Approval of Minutes: It was moved and seconded that the minutes of the March 6, 2007 meeting be approved as corrected.

II. OFFICE Of HUMAN RIGHTS/COMMITTEE UPDATES & ANNOUNCEMENTS:
Beverly Garnes, Human Rights Advocate, reported that the proposed regulations were approved on May 4, 2007 by the State Human Rights Committee. There will be a Seminar in the fall, September or October, (location to be announced soon) for training on the new Human Rights regulations.

The State Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services Board was held on April 3, 2007, 12 noon at the Stonewall Jackson Conference Center, 24 South Market Street, Staunton, Virginia. The Commissioner and Associate Commissioner were in attendance. Reporting of all allegations occurring at facilities was discussed and it was felt that some allegations were not being reported.

The State Human Rights Committee Newsletter needs recommendations on how to improve the articles in the newsletter to be more helpful to all local human rights committees. Articles submitted should be sent to Margaret Walsh, Office of Human Rights, DMHMRSAS, P. O. Box 1797, Richmond, VA 23218

III. Affiliate Reports:

a. Ascending Dove Residential Care : Nichelle Cooper reported there were no allegations of human rights violations for the quarter and there were no program changes during the quarter.

b. Creative Family Solutions: Shelia Lewis reported that there were no allegations of human rights violations during the quarter and there were no program changes during the quarter.

- c. **Dimension Youth Services:** Torecco Greenhow reported that there were no allegations of human rights violations during the quarter. There was one program change. We added a new resident care staff person.
- d. **Fidura & Associates, Inc.:** John Barrett reported that there were no allegations of human rights violations during the quarter and there were no program changes during the quarter.
- e. **Hanover Adult Center:** Tina S. Dunn reported that there were no allegations of human rights violations during the quarter. There was one program change. We admitted one new female participant and still have several on our waiting list.
- f. **Hanover Community Services:** Ron Lucas reported one allegation of human rights violations. Client A was scheduled for a weekend assessment at the Rapidan Group Home. Client A was referred by CSB Day Support Program. After returning home from their day program/work, Client A and Client J proceeded upstairs to begin showers. Staff heard a commotion upstairs and went to evaluate. Staff found Client A and Client J in a locked room. Upon opening the room it was discovered that the two were naked and involved in wrestling, tickling and kissing. Client J was asked what wrestling, tickling and kissing meant. Client J said Client A was on top kissing and tickling his neck, face and penis. Client A was asked to leave the room and put his clothes on. Client J was asked to do the same. The supervisor, Steve Trivett, was called and given details of the incident. He suggested that Client A's overnight bags be repacked and that he stay within sight supervision of staff until picked up for transport back home. This was done. Client J's parents were notified and he was evaluated by a physician on May 15, everything was o.k. and it was determined that there was no sexual abuse.

Resulting changes to CSB procedures:

1. Better exchange of client information from Case Manager to Group Home staff.
2. Residential Team will be more specific at the beginning of the assessment process with family members/caregivers when reviewing the guidelines of the Group Home.
3. Family/caregivers will be advised to inform the staff of any challenging behaviors that may require additional support for the client to experience a positive assessment process.

There were no program changes during the quarter.

- g. **Richmond Residential Services, Inc.:** Larry Wilson reported there were no allegations of human rights violations during the quarter. There were two program changes during the quarter. Waverly Massenburg resigned his position at the Willow program to pursue other employment opportunities. The Boatswain program has closed, consumers transition into vacancies at Channing and Amesbury programs are completed.
- h. **Riggins Residential:** Barbara Riggins reported three allegations of human rights violations for the quarter. A female resident went into the bedroom of a male resident who was getting dressed. He became angry and demanded that she leave. She said she needed to use his restroom (which she did not) because the hall restroom was being used. She barged into his room again and laughed as she announced that she saw his penis. Staff intervened and said female resident was antagonizing the male resident and that she was infringing upon the male residents rights. She was told that she needed to knock before entering anyone's bedroom.

An allegation by a female resident (same one) that a staff member had clawed the back of her neck during a Sunday afternoon talent show. After an investigation with another staff person, who was there, said she did not witness anything out of the ordinary.

The accused senior staff person has never been accused of anything before. This resident has a history of lying. A few days later when the resident was asked where the mark came from on her neck she admitted that she had scratched herself. The allegation was therefore noted as unfounded.

The same female resident has been going into the community telling lies and stories about the others residents in the home. This has upset the other residents. She has infringed upon the rights of other residents in the home. We have had many meetings with the case manager and the family about this resident and the resident has indicated that she would like to move. Therefore, she will be leaving the facility by the beginning of July.

There were three program changes during the quarter. Two part-time staff was hired and one full time staff.

- i. **VELDOT Residential Services:** A. Leavelle Cox reported no allegations of human rights violations during the quarter and there were no program changes during the quarter.
- j. **Virginia Baptist Children's Home & Family Services – DDM:** Lovell Johnson reported there were no allegations of human rights violations during the quarter. There were program changes during the quarter. In May the Agency's license from DMHMRSAS was extended until May 2010. Ed Bowman, Area Coordinator for the Richmond Homes retired. We anticipate filling the position before the end of June. We have a total of 4 staff openings and are using relief staff to cover the shortages.

In March there was one injury reported to Licensure and Human Rights. A resident tripped (over her own feet) and fell in her room. She sustained two hairline fractures on top of her left foot. Her orthopedic surgeon put it in a cast and ordered her to stay off it and use a wheel chair to six weeks. The individual has recovered and no surgery was needed.

OLD BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

Beverly Garnes presented Elizabeth Harrel with a plaque commending her for her service as Chairperson for the Hanover Local Human Rights Committee.

NEXT MEETING:

September 11, 2007 – Fall Meeting 4:45 p.m.
December 4, 2007 – Winter Meeting 4:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Barbara Bagby, Administrative Support